

Cerebral Aneurysm Repair

Cerebral aneurysm is the fourth most frequent cerebrovascular disorder. A cerebral aneurysm is an aneurysm of the brain and it occurs when there is a weakened area in the wall of a blood vessel that causes dilatation (widening). People with cerebral aneurysms can be born with one or develop it later in life. It is estimated that 5% of the population has some type of aneurysm.

Symptoms usually do not appear until complications develop. Bleeding is the most common cause of symptoms. Weakness, numbness, or other loss of nerve function may occur because of pressure from the aneurysm on adjacent brain tissue or because of reduced blood flow caused by a spasm of other blood vessels near a ruptured (burst) aneurysm.

Because symptoms often do not appear until bleeding occurs, cerebral aneurysm may be an emergency condition when it is discovered. The goal of treatment is to control symptoms and prevent further bleeding. Surgery, cerebral aneurysm repair, is the primary treatment for cerebral aneurysm. In order to repair the aneurysm, the doctor will have to perform a craniotomy (cut through the skull). The base of the aneurysm is closed off to prevent blood flow through the aneurysm. Several techniques are available to accomplish this. Clipping involves placing a clip on the neck of the aneurysm. Wrapping involves reinforcement of the weakened arterial wall. Ligation of the neck of the aneurysm involves binding.

Research suggests that a low volume hospital is one that performed less than 30 cerebral aneurysm repairs per year.

[See page 20 for references, numbers 7 and 37.]

Procedure-Specific Questions

- ◆ Is there a possibility that I may have seizures because of the craniotomy?
- ◆ Will my hair have to be shaved for the surgery?
- ◆ Will the craniotomy cause me to lose or decrease function of my hands and feet? Will it affect my speech?
- ◆ Will I be admitted to the intensive care unit after my surgery?

(See page 3 for other questions)

Region	Subregion	Average Annual Volume
	Hospital	
Central / Northeastern Region		
Columbia		
	Boone Hospital Center	17
	University Hospitals and Clinics	22
Kansas City / Western Region		
Clay / Platte Counties		
	North Kansas City Hospital	2
Eastern Jackson County		
	Independence Regional Health Center	3
Kansas City (Jackson County)		
	Baptist Medical Center	3
	Research Medical Center	17
	Saint Joseph Health Center	2
	Saint Luke's Hospital	16
	Truman Medical Center-Hospital Hill	1
Rest of Area		
	Heartland Regional Medical Center	1
Southeastern Region		
Cape Girardeau		
	Saint Francis Medical Center	15
	Southeast Missouri Hospital	3
Southwestern Region		
Joplin		
	Freeman Health System	6
	St. John's Regional Medical Center	4
Springfield		
	Lester E. Cox Medical Center South	17
	St. John's Regional Health Center	19
St Louis / Eastern Region		
St. Charles County		
	SSM St. Joseph Health Center	5
St. Louis City / County		
	Barnes-Jewish Hospital	68
	Christian Hospital Northeast-Northwest	16
	Depaul Health Center	6
	Forest Park Hospital	5
	Missouri Baptist Medical Center	2
	Saint Louis University Hospital	24
	SSM St. Joseph Hospital of Kirkwood	3
	SSM St. Mary's Health Center	7
	St. Anthony's Medical Center	11
	St. John's Mercy Medical Center	15
	St. Luke's Hospital	9